10. Sindhudurg-Vijaynagar-Circuit.
11. Bangalore-Mysore-Hassan.

DESTINATIONS.

1. Lakshadweep Islands
2. Andaman Islands
3. Manali (Solang-Nalah)
4. Bekal Beach
5. Muttukadu Beach
6. Kangra (Pong Dam)

In addition during 1995-96, the following additional circuits were identified for intensified promotion.

(1) The Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(2) Chandigarh-Himachal Pradesh winter circuit.

(3) Kerala backwaters and hills circuits.

Efforts are being made to promote these circuits in India and abroad, to develop infrastructure within the circuit and also to optimally utilise the existing infrastructure.

In addition, continuous and concerted efforts are made by the Department of Tourism, Government of India in association with the State Governments and various segments of the tourism industry to lay emphasis on domestic tourism and off season tourism. These efforts include development and augmentation of tourism infrastructure by provision of central financial assistance for construction of tourist lodges, wayside amenities, Yatri Niwases, etc., improvement of tourist facilities and services, production of publicity material such as brochures, films, etc. agressive marketing efforts through the offices of Department of Tourism in India and abroad and organisation of familiarisation tours.

For off-season tourism, the Department, in association with concerned State Governments, are promoting monsoon packages in Goa and Kerala, and the Winter Circuits in Himachal Pradesh.

Fraud in Central Bank and State Bank of India

*197. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an attempt was made to defraud the Central Bank and State Bank of India of a sum of Rs. 300 crores (vide 'The Times of India', dated the 26th April, 1996);

(b) if so, the findings of C.B.I. inquiry into the matter; and

(c) the action taken against the officers concerned?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Government have seen the news item referred to in the Question. Reserve Bank of India have reported that the Calcutta (Entally) branch of Central Bank of India opened a current account in the name of M/s Yonex Food Pvt. Ltd. on 1st March 1995. On 24th April, 1995 the company deposited a cheque for Rs. 300 crore favouring itself purportedly issued by M/s Abel Corporation and drawn on Calcutta (M.G. Road) branch of State Bank of India. The branch sent the cheque through MICR clearing to SBI instead of presenting it in the "high value clearing". It also made an advance of Rs. 12 lakh unauthorisedly against the cheque which was still to be cleared. The cheque however turned out to be a fake one and the leaf pertained to a cheque book issued by State Bank of India to a savings bank account holder who had closed the account. The fake cheque was returned by SBI unpaid.

Departmental procedings have also been initiated against the Branch Manager of Central Bank of India. Central Bureau of Investigation have also registered a case on 28.4.1995 and the investigation has not yet been completed.